AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1.   (currently amended) A method of operating a server machine to expand input strings of characters received from client machines that include character input devices, comprising:

storing, in a location accessible to said server machine, one or more mappings between abbreviated substrings and expanded substrings;

receiving, at the server machine, a request to perform a server action including at least one of an email operation, a chat operation, and a calendar operation;

receiving, at the server machine, an unexpanded input string of characters associated with said request from a client machine that includes a character input device, the unexpanded input string including at least one abbreviated substring, each preceded and followed in the unexpanded input string by word delimiters; delimiters, each abbreviated substring belonging to a set of abbreviated substrings in an applicable mapping of said one or more mappings; and

automatically finding one of the abbreviated substrings based on the preceding and following word delimiters;

determining, based on said applicable mapping, that the abbreviated substring corresponds to a particular expanded substring, and substring;

producing an expanded input string that is a version of the unexpanded input string with the abbreviated substring replaced by said particular expanded substring. substring; and

performing said server action including incorporating said expanded substring into display data associated with said at least one of an email operation, a chat operation, and a calendar operation.

2.   (original) The method of claim 1 in which one of the abbreviated substrings begins with a character and represents an expanded substring that begins with the same character and in which the step of determining that the abbreviated substring corresponds to a particular expanded substring comprises:

determining the case of the beginning character in the abbreviated substring; and

- 3 -

giving the determined case to the beginning character in the expanded substring.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 in which one of the abbreviated substrings represents expanded substrings that depend on time and in which the step of determining that the abbreviated substring corresponds to a particular expanded substring comprises:

performing a computation to obtain an expanded substring based on the current time; and

producing the expanded input string with the abbreviated substring replaced by the expanded substring based on the current time.

4. (currently amended) A server machine for expanding input strings of characters received from client machines that include character input devices, the server machine comprising:

a processor; and

connecting circuitry for connecting the processor to a user's client machine that includes a character input device;

the processor operating to:

access, in a location accessible to said server machine, one or more mappings between abbreviated substrings and expanded substrings;

receive, at the server machine, a request to perform a server action including at least one of an email operation, a chat operation, and a calendar operation;

receive, at the server machine, an unexpanded input string of characters associated with said request from a client machine that includes a character input device, the unexpanded input string including at least one abbreviated substring, each preceded and followed in the unexpanded input string by word delimiters; delimiters, each abbreviated substring belonging to a set of abbreviated substrings in an applicable mapping of said one or more mappings; and

automatically find one of the abbreviated substrings based on the preceding and following word delimiters;

determine, based on said applicable mapping, that the abbreviated substring corresponds to a particular expanded substring, and substring;

produce an expanded input string that is a version of the unexpanded input string with the abbreviated substring replaced by said particular expanded substring. substring; and

- 4 -

perform said server action including incorporating said expanded substring into display data associated with said at least one of an email operation, a chat operation, and a calendar operation.

5.   (currently amended) A method of performing a server action that requires user input, the method comprising the steps of:

storing, at a location accessible to a server machine, one or more mappings between abbreviated substrings and expanded substrings;

receiving, at the server machine, a request to perform said server action, said server action including at least one of an email operation, a chat operation, and a calendar operation;

receiving from a client machine an unexpanded input string that includes an abbreviated substring associated with said request;

determining whether said abbreviated substring is constrained to be identically produced;

if said abbreviated substring is constrained to be identically produced, then performing said server action using said abbreviated substring without expanding said abbreviated substring; and

if said abbreviated substring is not constrained to be identically produced, then performing the steps of

inspecting a mapping, of said one or more mappings, to determine an expanded substring that corresponds to said unexpanded substring; and

performing said server action ~~using said expanded substring~~ including incorporating said expanded substring into display data associated with said at least one of an email operation, a chat operation, and a calendar operation.

6.   (original) The method of Claim 5 wherein:

the client machine is operated by a particular user; and

the method further includes the step of determining which mapping of said one or more mappings to inspect based on identity of said particular user.

7.   (original) The method of Claim 6 wherein the step of determining which mapping to inspect includes the steps of:

- 5 -

identifying which group of a plurality of groups includes said particular user, and

identifying a mapping associated with the group that includes said particular user.

8.   (original) The method of Claim 5 further comprising the step of determining which mapping of said one or more mappings to inspect based on which type of server action is requested by said client machine.

9.   (original) The method of Claim 5 wherein:

the method further comprises the step of determining a current time; and

determining which substring of a plurality of substrings corresponds to said unexpanded substring based on the current time.

10.   (original) The method of Claim 9 wherein the step of determining which substring corresponds to said unexpanded substring includes:

expanding said unexpanded substring to a first expanded substring without regard to current time; and

expanding said first expanded substring to a second expanded substring based on the current time.

11.   (original) The method of Claim 5 wherein the step of performing said server action using said expanded substring is performed without sending said expanded substring to said client machine.

12.   (currently amended) A computer-readable medium carrying instructions for performing a server action that requires user input, the instructions including instructions for performing the steps of:

storing, at a location accessible to a server machine, one or more mappings between abbreviated substrings and expanded substrings;

receiving, at the server machine, a request to perform a server action including at least one of an email operation, a chat operation, and a calendar operation;

receiving from a client machine an unexpanded input string that includes an abbreviated

- 6 -

substring associated with said request;

determining whether said abbreviated substring is constrained to be identically produced;

if said abbreviated substring is constrained to be identically produced, then performing said server action using said abbreviated substring without expanding said abbreviated substring; and

if said abbreviated substring is not constrained to be identically produced, then performing the steps of

inspecting a mapping, of said one or more mappings, to determine an expanded substring that corresponds to said unexpanded substring; and

performing said server action ~~using said expanded substring~~ including incorporating said expanded substring into display data associated with said at least one of an email operation, a chat operation, and a calendar operation.

13.   (original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 12 wherein:

the client machine is operated by a particular user; and

the computer-readable medium further includes the step of determining which mapping of said one or more mappings to inspect based on identity of said particular user.

14.   (original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 13 wherein the step of determining which mapping to inspect includes the steps of:

identifying which group of a plurality of groups includes said particular user, and

identifying a mapping associated with the group that includes said particular user.

15.   (original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 12 further comprising the step of determining which mapping of said one or more mappings to inspect based on which type of server action is requested by said client machine.

16.   (original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 12 wherein:

the computer-readable medium further comprises the step of determining a current time; and

determining which substring of a plurality of substrings corresponds to said unexpanded

- 7 -

substring based on the current time.

17.   (original)   The computer-readable medium of Claim 16 wherein the step of determining which substring corresponds to said unexpanded substring includes:

expanding said unexpanded substring to a first expanded substring without regard to current time; and

expanding said first expanded substring to a second expanded substring based on the current time.

18.   (original)   The computer-readable medium of Claim 12 wherein the step of performing said server action using said expanded substring is performed without sending said expanded substring to said client machine.

19.   (new)   The method of claim 1, wherein:

said preceding and following word delimiters include all non-alphanumeric characters to indicate one of said abbreviated substrings.